

AS

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 96-257-C - ORDER NO. 97-127

FEBRUARY 14, 1997

IN RE: Application of Business Discount Plan,) ORDER
Inc. for a Certificate of Public) APPROVING
Convenience and Necessity to Operate) CERTIFICATE
as a Reseller of Interexchange Tele-) OF PUBLIC
communications Services within the) CONVENIENCE AND
State of South Carolina.) NECESSITY

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the "Commission") by way of the Application of Business Discount Plan, Inc. ("BDP" or the "Company") requesting a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity authorizing it to operate as a reseller of intrastate interexchange telecommunications services in the State of South Carolina. The Company's Application was filed pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §58-9-280 (Supp. 1995) and the Regulations of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina.

The Commission's Executive Director instructed BDP to publish, one time, a prepared Notice of Filing in newspapers of general circulation in the affected areas. The purpose of the Notice of Filing was to inform interested parties of BDP's Application and of the manner and time in which to file the appropriate pleadings for participation in the proceeding. BDP complied with this instruction and provided the Commission with proof of publication of the Notice of Filing. A Petition to

Intervene was filed by the Consumer Advocate for the State of South Carolina (the "Consumer Advocate"). Subsequently, and prior to the hearing on this matter, the Consumer Advocate notified the Commission that it had received acceptable responses from the Company and, based upon the Company's assurances of certain tariff modifications, the Consumer Advocate would not participate in the scheduled hearing.

A hearing was commenced on January 7, 1997, at 11:00 a.m., in the Commission's Hearing Room. The Honorable Guy Butler, Chairman, presided. BDP was represented by Russell B. Shetterly, Esquire. Catherine D. Taylor, Staff Counsel, represented the Commission Staff.

T. David Jenkins, President of BDP, appeared and offered testimony in support of BDP's Application. Mr. Jenkins stated that BDP is a California corporation which is registered to do business in South Carolina as a foreign corporation. According to Mr. Jenkins, BDP proposes to offer long distance services using resold transmission services of carriers certificated to carry traffic in South Carolina. Mr. Jenkins explained the Company's request for authority to provide interexchange telecommunications services in South Carolina as a reseller. The record reveals the Company's services, operations and marketing procedures.

Mr. Jenkins also explained that BDP possesses the technical, financial and managerial abilities to provide its services in South Carolina. Mr. Jenkins further testified that the Company would make certain changes to its proposed tariff to comply with Commission guidelines and prior Commission Orders.

After full consideration of the applicable law, the Company's Application, and the evidence presented at the hearing, the Commission hereby issues its findings of fact and conclusions of law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. BDP is incorporated under the laws of the State of California and is licensed to do business as a foreign corporation in the State of South Carolina by the Secretary of State.

2. BDP operates as a non-facilities based reseller of interexchange services and wishes to provide its services in South Carolina.

3. BDP has the experience, capability, and financial resources to provide the services as described in its Application.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Based on the above findings of fact, the Commission determines that a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity should be granted to BDP to provide intrastate interLATA service and to originate and terminate toll traffic within the same LATA, as set forth herein, through the resale of intrastate Wide Area Telecommunications Services (WATS), Message Telecommunications Service (MTS), Foreign Exchange Service, Private Line Service, or any other services authorized for resale by tariffs of carriers approved by the Commission.

2. The Commission adopts a rate design for BDP for its resale services which includes only maximum rate levels for each tariff charge. A rate structure incorporating maximum rate levels with the flexibility for adjustment below the maximum rate levels

has been previously adopted by the Commission. In Re: Application of GTE Sprint Communications Corporation, etc., Order No. 84-622, issued in Docket No. 84-10-C (August 2, 1984).

3. BDP shall not adjust its rates below the approved maximum level without notice to the Commission and to the public. BDP shall file its proposed rate changes, publish its notice of such changes, and file affidavits of publication with the Commission two weeks prior to the effective date of the changes. However, the public notice requirement is waived, and therefore not required, for reductions below the maximum cap in instances which do not affect the general body of subscribers or do not constitute a general rate reduction. In Re: Application of GTE Sprint Communications, etc., Order No. 93-638, issued in Docket No. 84-10-C (July 16, 1993). Any proposed increase in the maximum rate level reflected in the tariff which would be applicable to the general body of the Company's subscribers shall constitute a general ratemaking proceeding and will be treated in accordance with the notice and hearing provisions of S.C. Code Ann. §58-9-540 (Supp. 1995).

4. If it has not already done so by the date of issuance of this Order, BDP shall file its revised maximum tariff and an accompanying price list within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Order. The revised tariff shall be consistent with the findings of this Order and shall be consistent with the Commission's Rules and Regulations.

5. BDP is subject to access charges pursuant to Commission Order No. 86-584, in which the Commission determined that for

access purposes resellers should be treated similarly to facilities-based interexchange carriers.

6. With regard to the Company's resale of service, an end-user should be able to access another interexchange carrier or operator service provider if the end-user so desires.

7. BDP shall resell the services of only those interexchange carriers or LECs authorized to do business in South Carolina by this Commission. If BDP changes underlying carriers, it shall notify the Commission in writing.

8. With regard to the origination and termination of toll calls within the same LATA, BDP shall comply with the terms of Order No. 93-462, Order Approving Stipulation and Agreement, in Docket Nos. 92-182-C, 92-183-C, and 92-200-C (June 3, 1993).

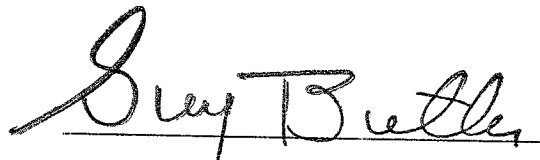
9. BDP shall file surveillance reports on a calendar or fiscal year basis with the Commission as required by Order No. 88-178 in Docket No. 87-483-C. The proper form for these reports is indicated on Attachment A.

10. The Company shall, in compliance with Commission regulations, designate and maintain an authorized utility representative who is prepared to discuss, on a regulatory level, customer relations (complaint) matters, engineering operations, tests and repairs. In addition, the Company shall provide to the Commission in writing the name of the authorized representative to be contacted in connection with general management duties as well as emergencies which occur during non-office hours. BDP shall file the names, addresses and telephone numbers of these representatives with the Commission within thirty (30) days of

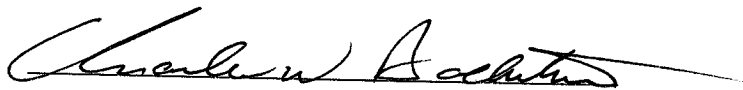
receipt of this Order. Further, the Company shall promptly notify the Commission in writing if the representatives are replaced, and the Company is directed to comply with the Commission regulations unless waived by the Commission.

11. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)

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ATTACHMENT A

ANNUAL INFORMATION ON SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATIONS
FOR INTEREXCHANGE COMPANIES AND AOS'S

COMPANY NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

FEI NO. _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

(1) SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATING REVENUES FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING
DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR ENDING _____.

(2) SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING
DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR ENDING _____.

(3) RATE BASE INVESTMENT IN SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATIONS* FOR 12
MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR ENDING _____.

* THIS WOULD INCLUDE GROSS PLANT, ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION,
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES, CASH WORKING CAPITAL, CONSTRUCTION
WORK IN PROGRESS, ACCUMULATED DEFERRED INCOME TAX,
CONTRIBUTIONS IN AID OF CONSTRUCTION AND CUSTOMER DEPOSITS.

(4) PARENT'S CAPITAL STRUCTURE* AT DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR
ENDING _____.

* THIS WOULD INCLUDE ALL LONG TERM DEBT (NOT THE CURRENT PORTION
PAYABLE), PREFERRED STOCK AND COMMON EQUITY.

(5) PARENT'S EMBEDDED COST PERCENTAGE (%) FOR LONG TERM DEBT AND
EMBEDDED COST PERCENTAGE (%) FOR PREFERRED STOCK AT YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31 OR FISCAL YEAR ENDING _____.

(6) ALL DETAILS ON THE ALLOCATION METHOD USED TO DETERMINE THE
AMOUNT OF EXPENSES ALLOCATED TO SOUTH CAROLINA OPERATIONS AS
WELL AS METHOD OF ALLOCATION OF COMPANY'S RATE BASE INVESTMENT
(SEE #3 ABOVE).

SIGNATURE _____

NAME (PLEASE TYPE OF PRINT) _____

TITLE _____